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1984

81st ANNIVERSARY

**B'NAI ISRAEL
CONGREGATION**



Wilmington, North Carolina

A HISTORY OF B'NAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Prepared in celebration of the 81st anniversary
of the congregation.

November 3, 1984

Edited by Robert Brent Toplin

Anniversary Book Committee

Chairman: Nathan Stein

Committee Members:

Norma May
Arnold Neuwirth
Barbara Waxman
Rebecca Winter
Marilyn Winter

Funds for the printing of this booklet were donated by Rebecca R. Winter, in memory of Carol Winter (1956 - 1980). Carol won first place honors in the B'nai B'rith Girls International Contest for Literature in 1972.

A HISTORY OF B'NAI ISRAEL

A newcomer to Wilmington who visits B'nai Israel synagogue this year can discover a surprisingly vibrant Jewish community thriving in a city that has a relatively small Jewish population. During the High Holiday services, the newcomer can find the shul packed with families from Wilmington as well as from many surrounding cities. A visit on a Sunday morning or a weekday afternoon reveals an exciting religious school program attended by active children who clearly enjoy themselves. On Saturday morning the newcomer will notice the people's deep commitment to honor the Sabbath and keep it holy, and during wedding and Bar and Bas Mitzvah celebrations the newcomer can observe the festive spirit and friendship of the members.

What are the origins of this unusually dynamic congregation? How did the synagogue arrive at its position today as a vitally important contributor to Jewish life in southeastern North Carolina?

For B'nai Israel, it was a humble beginning. In 1903 a small group gathered at the Goldstein home on Dock Street to start the second Jewish congregation in Wilmington. Included at the meeting were Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Kaminsky, Mr. Abramowitz, Mr. Siegel, and the Lowenstein and May brothers. Before long the congregation was attracting several new members as more Jewish families moved into the city. Abe D'lugin came in 1905 and Ike Shain in 1906. A year later, the members hired their first rabbi, Rabbi Karesh, and they rented a hall at 123 Market Street using a room above the Wilmington Grocery Store. Often they had a minyan in the back of someone's store. Mr. Kaminsky was selected President. With the membership growing quickly, the group moved to a second location on the second floor of a building at 209 Market Street.

Soon they were talking about the need to build a shul of their own. Ben May assumed the duties as chairman of the Building Committee, and in 1911 the search for a new home began in earnest. Everyone pitched in as well as they could, giving donations for the new structure. One dollar to five dollars was a good gift, and ten dollars seemed like a gold mine. Mr. M. Goldberg served as a supervisor, helping to build the Bima and pulpit. The congregation had a big celebration when the cornerstone was laid; even the mayor of the city attended. Finally, in 1913, the first Orthodox Jewish Synagogue in Wilmington was ready. It was located at 313 Walnut Street, between 3rd and 4th. Today there is a parking lot for the Wachovia Bank at the location. Later, in 1915, the members organized a social center at 416 North Front Street.

Here is the membership list of that 1913 congregation. Several names are familiar to us today:

President, Louis Schwartz
 Vice President, Louis Schlossberg
 Treasurer, Harry Rulnik
 Louis Abelovitz
 Abe Resnik
 Abraham D'lugin
 Louis Abelovitz
 Harry Jaffe
 H. Land
 Hyman Stein
 Henry B. Neuwirth
 J. Horowitz

Isaac Miller
 Isaac Shain
 Louis Goldberg
 Joseph Goldstein
 Morris Freedland
 M. Abrowsky
 Morris Horowitz
 M. Zaglin
 Max Warshauer
 Morris May
 Benjamin May
 Dave Lowenstein

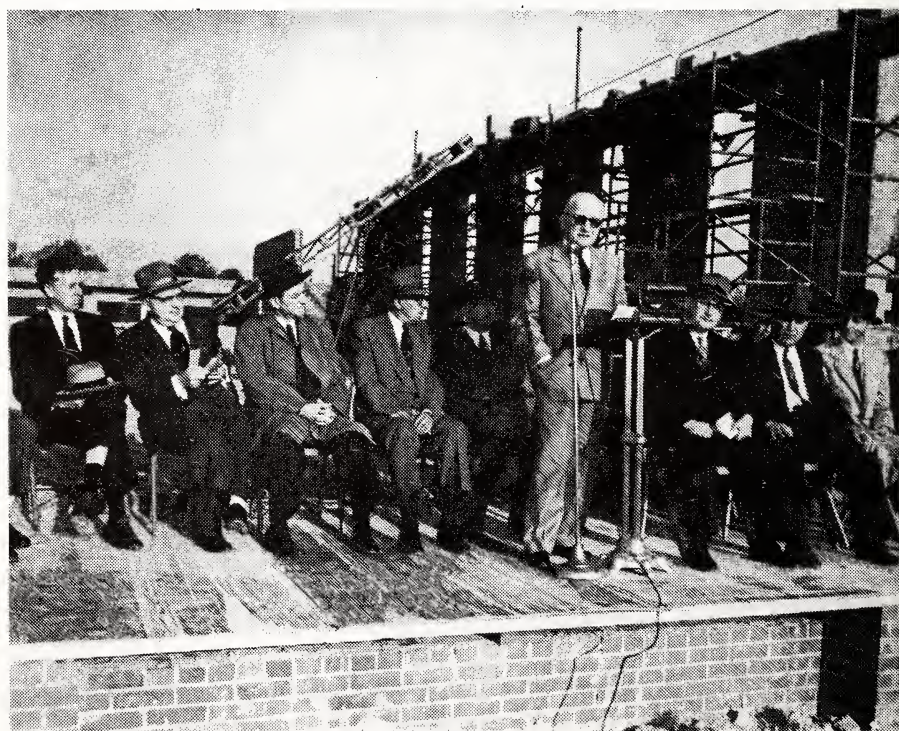
A.M. Kaminsky
 J. Abramowitz
 Charles Finkelstein
 Jacob D'lugin
 William Kaminsky
 Paul Briskin
 Morris I. Davis
 Harry Evenson
 Sandor Kosch
 Samuel D'lugin
 A. Levine
 Abraham Simon
 H. Shapiro

p85062
 1913 - Rebecca Wintley

A number of rabbis served the congregation, but a few stand out in the minds of the members because of the length of their tenure and the impact of their personalities. Rabbi Minsky made a particularly strong impression. He appeared clean-shaven and was unusually well-dressed. Minsky was rather strict in dealing with the children. Hebrew school students remember that he often used a tuning fork to get the correct pitch. Rabbi Minsky sometimes became angry with the unruly students, and he would mete out punishment with a ruler. Sometimes Rabbi Minsky lectured the congregation in the same manner that he lectured the children. He especially emphasized the kashruth and berated members for not keeping Kosher. He was quite an excellent teacher and cantor. He also served as a Shochet and a Mohel.

In the early days of the congregation, all the rabbis were not necessarily ordained, and they performed a number of functions that were not among the responsibilities of the later rabbis. Often they came from Europe, where they were trained in the ritual slaughter of animals. The rabbi was usually a mohel as well. One, Rabbi Bronstein, invented the "Bronstein Clamp" for the mohel's duties and enjoyed a fair degree of business success with his unusual enterprise.

Rabbi Friedman followed Bronstein and had a long tenure with B'nai Israel through the forties, fifties and early sixties. He was popular with adults as well as the children, and he had quite a large group in the Religious School. He also staffed the police and sheriff's departments during Christmas to give Christians an opportunity to be with their families. Rabbi Friedman's kindness and compassion are legend among many Jews and non-Jews alike - people who benefitted from his warmth and love of humanity. He presided at our weddings and funerals, he



Dignitaries

taught our children, he koshered our meat and he stole our hearts with his tenderness, his wisdom and his gentle sense of humor. He manned the Bima for many years on the High Holy days with assistance from members of the congregation. During Rabbi Friedman's tenure, B'nai Israel Congregation continued to grow and to include many members from the surrounding communities such as Burgaw, Wallace, Warsaw, Jacksonville, Whiteville, Elizabethtown and Tabor City. He also started a Cultural Series at the synagogue and many famous entertainers appeared, such as Joseph Buloff of the Yiddish stage, opera singer Richard Tucker and the beloved Herschel Bernardi. The Chief Rabbi of Ireland also gave a lecture. Rabbi Friedman left Wilmington in 1966 and went to Asheville, N.C., where he stayed until he retired several years ago. He still comes to Wilmington to help with the High Holy Day services.

Rabbi Shmuel Tokayer followed Rabbi Friedman and stayed for only a few years. He was committed to Jewish education but he soon left the rabbinate to become a sociologist.

Then Rabbi Kaufman, who was in his sixties, came in for three years. His delightful wife often assisted him. Rabbi Kaufman was a learned gentleman, but he sometimes had difficulty controlling the children in religious school. Rabbi Aaron Segal, who followed Kaufman, stayed for six years and had a marvelous voice. During his first High Holiday services his sons, who were good singers, accompanied him in chanting the melodies, and the services were like an opera. Rabbi Segal emphasized the Holocaust at every opportunity. Many members remember seeing Rabbi Segal jog to the shul from his home in Forest Hills Apartments.

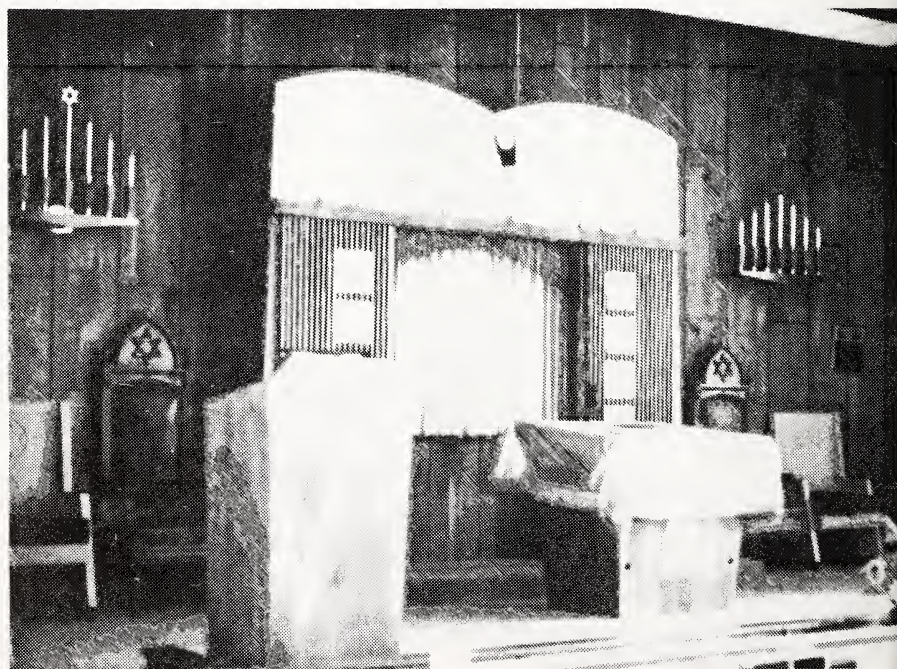
Many of the members spent a good deal of time at the old shul. They lived quite near and they could easily walk to the synagogue. Jewish holidays were major events in their lives, and they went early for services. Practices at the shul were strictly Orthodox, and women sat upstairs in the balcony. From their somewhat



Cornerstone Laid 1913



Interior of Walnut Street Synagogue



Interior of Chestnut Street Synagogue

You are cordially invited to attend

THE MORTGAGE BURNING

of the B'nai Israel Synagogue

Sunday, March 17, 1963 - 8:00 p.m.

Synagogue Auditorium

Guest Speaker - Dr. William Furie

**Movies and
Refreshments**

**Board of Directors
B'nai Israel Synagogue**

isolated position, the women talked freely with each other about the events of the day and they exchanged recipes. The Friday evening services remained practically unchanged over many years. Hebrew was evident everywhere, and through these years, Samuel Rabunsky designed Hebrew lettering for the minyon room and the cemetery gravestones.

The customs remained strongly orthodox in the period. The families kept kosher, and most did not ride to shul. Many kept a Jewish newspaper in their home. Some of the children tried to adjust to the requirements of the Sabbath by purchasing tickets to the Bijou on Friday afternoon and then visiting the theatre on Saturday. Within the shul, Hebrew and some Yiddish were heard. English was not spoken in the formal service, and the sermons were delivered in Yiddish.

During the years of World War II, congregation members began to talk seriously about the need to build a new shul. As the planning moved forward, the cost estimates came in at around 250,000 dollars for the construction. Sam Berger was especially important in spearheading the campaign to move to a new location, and he, almost single-handedly, brought this project to completion. Ben Kingoff helped secure a lot at 26th and Chestnut Streets. Other people influential in helping to turn the dream into a reality were Ken Alpert, B.D. Schwartz and Nathan Stein, along with committee members Nathan Block, Abe D'lugin, Harry Jaffe, Herman Leder, Ben May, Joe Mann, Arnold Neuwirth and Raymond Retchin. A total of 155 people made contributions from \$5 to \$3500. Various rooms were donated in memory of specific individuals, and these donations were recorded in the B'nai Israel Contribution Book. Throughout all of this planning, Rabbi Friedman was of great assistance.

Meanwhile, the Sisterhood, which was organized around 1920 as the Jewish Women's Benevolent Society, was playing an important role in the synagogue. Jennie Finkelstein was very instrumental in getting things done for the benefit of all the congregants. The members affectionately called her "Mrs. Hadassah". When the new shul was built on Chestnut Street, the Sisterhood furnished a kosher kitchen and helped to pay for the landscaping. Officers in the Sisterhood at that time were: Goldie Levine, President; Belle Kingoff, Vice-President; Ann Berger, Treasurer; Emma Retchin, Recording Secretary; and Sarah Friedland, Corresponding Secretary.



Laying the Cornerstone 1952

In 1954 the membership spent its first High Holidays in the new house of worship. The formal dedication was February 20, 1955 under the leadership of Rabbi Samuel Friedman. Gifts from many people continued to come in to make the synagogue a more complete home. Among these were a new Sefer Torah from Joseph and Dr. J.B. Friedland, given in memory of their parents and another new Sefer Torah given by Esther Guld in memory of her father, William Block and husband, Moe Guld. By the 1960's, some were asking that a larger Bima be installed, and a major remodeling job was done on the Bima during the presidency of Milton Fleishman. In 1962 the members of B'nai Israel congregation celebrated their financial progress by burning the original mortgage after it had been paid off.

The move to the new shul involved more than just a change of physical environment. It brought changes in the ritual practices of the membership. For example, the coming of the new shul brought the end of separate seating for men and women. No longer would the ladies have to sit upstairs. In a gesture of respect to some members, the first two rows of the new synagogue were reserved for men only, but otherwise, there was mixed seating. Also, the new shul was not to have a mikvah. Girls usually stopped going to Hebrew School at an early age in the old days, and women were not present at congregational meetings and usually not present for the services. All of this changed significantly over the years. There was some resistance to the changes, but overall, the membership was ready for the shift. Perhaps the satisfaction was due to the continuation of many familiar traditions, since the services remained practically unchanged during the days of the move to a new building.

Over the years, excited disagreements did, of course, emerge. Members disputed decisions in lively exchanges at the meetings. Often the heated



RABBI SAMUEL A. FRIEDMAN

Wilmington, N. C. To Dedicate Its New Synagogue

This coming month will witness an event of great importance for the city of Wilmington, N. C. Congregation B'nai Israel will welcome its new and beautiful Synagogue.

The new building will replace the old Synagogue at 313 Walnut Street. It will be ready and complete sometime in October. It will be a modern, air conditioned building with a seating capacity of 360 persons, a social hall with a 300 person seating capacity, a prayer room, a library for the Rabbi and six class-rooms. The building will be of concrete block construction faced with a designed brick and lime stone exterior. The cost will be approximately \$50,000.



B'NAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

\$ 50,000.00

Wilmington, North Carolina

February 25

19 54

ON DEMAND we promise to pay to the order of THE WILMINGTON SAVINGS AND TRUST

COMPANY

---FIFTY THOUSAND AND NO/100---

DOLLARS

VALUE RECEIVED, NEGOTIABLE AND PAYABLE AT THE WILMINGTON SAVINGS & TRUST COMPANY
Wilmington, North Carolina

With interest after maturity
Each and all of the sureties, or of
the endorers of this note, hereby
waive presentment, notice of dishonor,
protest of same, and extension of time
of payment.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto
set our hands and seals

and ~~Finance~~ *Chairman*

B'NAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

By *Sam Berger pres.* (SEAL)

By *Paul King of W. Pres.* (SEAL)

and *Finance* ~~Chairman~~

Raymond P. P. P. (SEAL)

John S. Long (SEAL)

Merris G. G. (SEAL)

Harold W. W. (SEAL)

Frank H. H. (SEAL)

Robert I. I. (SEAL)

William N. N. (SEAL)

William J. J. (SEAL)

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William J. J. (SEAL)

William J. J. (SEAL)

Nathan S. S. (SEAL)

Anna M. M. (SEAL)

Ben B. B. (SEAL)

Ben S. S. (SEAL)

Victor M. M. (SEAL)

Ben M. M. (SEAL)

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Ben M. M. (SEAL)

Mortgage Signers

arguments concerned the selection of new rabbis. But there were other causes for division, too. As mentioned above, the question of mixed seating brought raised voices over the years. There were also disputes over the wording of the constitution (in the 1950's, Mr. Lowenstein brought the house down in laughter when he asked during one discussion, "What is this 'modern orthodox'?"). Some demanded more English in the Friday night services (that disagreement was partly resolved by organizing a separate 8 PM service on Fridays which featured more English.) Some did not want to affiliate with the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Conservative wing of Judaism, and they were further angered when the Seminary's placement service failed to deliver a rabbi to the congregation. There were also occasional struggles over the amount of dues that should be collected from the members. Members of the Sisterhood sometimes disagreed about whether cakes for the bake sale should be baked at home.

The pressures for modernization became strong in the 1950's, 60's and 70's. Women were, of course, affected. The first Bas Mitzvahs began to appear. With the rise of Israel, Hadassah's activities grew in importance, and women found leadership roles. Emma Retchin, achieved a notably high position in the national Hadassah organization. In 1974 the constitution was amended to allow women to join in their own right. By the 1980's, women could vote in place of their husbands in the congregational meetings, and they were taking more active roles in the services. Also, Ann Finkelstein became the first woman to serve on the Board of the synagogue.

The Sisterhood during the 50's, 60's and 70's continued to be a strong contributor to synagogue affairs. The organization had many fund-raising affairs, such as the fall rummage sale and cake sales. Sisterhood members started the



Buddy Neuwirth Reading Megillah in World War II

Yom Kippur Break-Fast for out-of-town members so that they could have a meal before journeying home.

In the 70's the Sisterhood president began to attend the regular shul board meetings, and in the latter part of the decade the Sisterhood president became a full member of the Board. During this period, the Sisterhood expanded the Yom Kippur Break-Fast to include the entire membership and it planned annual Channukah dinners. The Sisterhood also planned the renovation of the William Block Social Hall and organized other meals and social events in connection with major holidays. In all of these activities, Edith Alper was a major contributor, serving as the chief chef and director of the kitchen. She was responsible for many gastronomic extravaganzas at the shul.

Events outside the synagogue sometimes made a significant impact on the local Jewish community. For instance, World War II changed lives. Wilmington became a major training area for the soldiers, and the city's Jewry played host to many of the service personnel. They showed the hospitality for which they are famous, taking the soldiers into their homes for meals and providing a home away from home. Some of these soldiers became sons-in-law to Wilmington families. Camp Davis was an important base for the G.I.'s who came to town. The shul was particularly helpful to the Jewish soldiers who worked at nearby bases. At one time a seder was held for 250 of them.



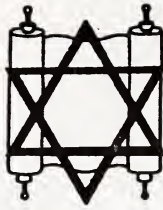
Some members of B'nai Israel Sisterhood (1984)



Purim Party



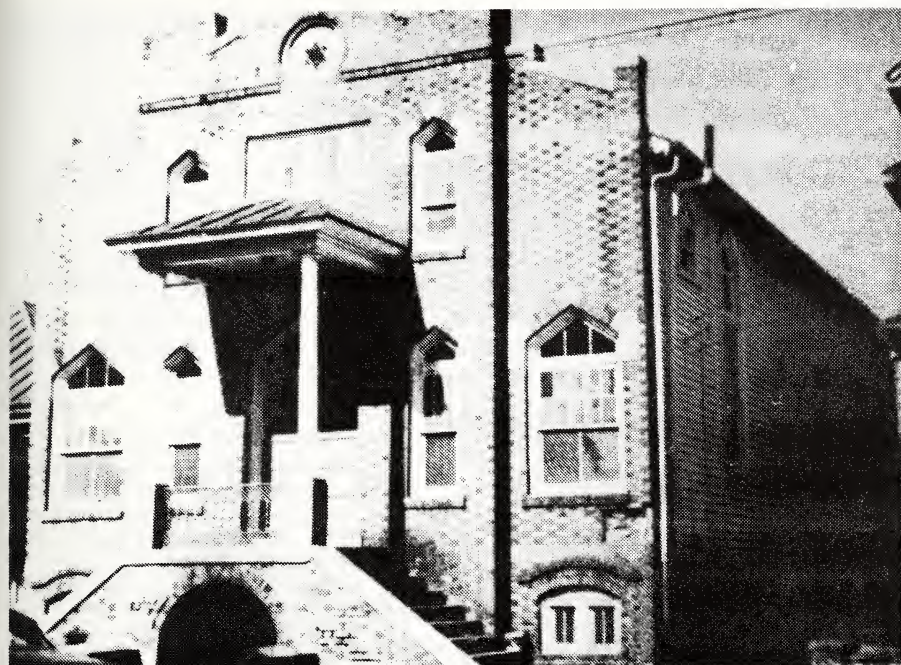




The civil rights revolution brought tensions to the city of Wilmington. In the early 1970's there were several firebombings in the city, and the Schwartz furniture store burned to the ground. Then a shocking incident occurred. A bomb blew up part of the entrance to the synagogue, doing extensive damage. A man was accused of the crime, but he was found not guilty on a technicality. The individual was, however, convicted on a charge of damaging the local black newspaper. The synagogue bombing motivated many ministers in the Wilmington area to express regrets on behalf of their churches. Many offered to help in any way they could. Calm was soon restored, but synagogue members continued to talk about security measures, and they installed spotlights on the outside of the building.

B'nai Israel members have always been sensitive to the needs of Israel. When Israel won its independence, a large service was held in the sanctuary marked by speeches, prayers, and appeals for funds. The members also raised much money to help the victims of the Nazi holocaust (indeed, several members had lost relatives in Europe.) One man even pledged \$2500 after seeing a film about the horrors of the concentration camps. Contributions to UJA were always sizable, and some members gave money to the Hagannah during the days of the independence fight.

The Jewish community of Wilmington has always been small in relation to the total population of New Hanover County, but it has played a big part in public affairs. B.D. Schwartz served as mayor (during the difficult days of the riots, no less) and, also, as state senator. Hannah Block was mayor pro tem and she served a term on the City Council. William Schwartz became mayor of Wilmington in the 1980's and Irving Fogler served on the City Council. Sylvia Schwartz spent long hours as a leader of the Friends of Wilmington College, and as a Mental Health organizer. Seymour Alper was instrumental in planning the new County Memorial Hospital. He also devoted his energies to bringing an outstanding community concert series to Wilmington and he got an Israeli by the name of Rosencrantz to design the hospital. George Alper served as a county commissioner, and Franklin Block was a leader of the United Way drive. Bill Kingoff served as Chairman of the Bi-Racial Commission during the difficult days of racial tensions in Wilmington. Later, the organization became the Human Relations Commission. Roselle Margolis has been an active leader of the Task Force on Family Violence and chairperson of various boards providing legal services for the needy. Dan Retchin served on the New Hanover County Planning Board, and Leon Blaustein became state chairman of B'nai B'rith. Barbara Schwartz was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, Janice Kingoff was chairperson of Friends of UNC-W and Joanne Fogler was active in the Wilmington Women's Political Forum.



Synagogue Around 1913

Leadership within the shul began to change around the time of World War II. Before the war, the European-born were in the leadership ranks, the past presidents of the old days included Joseph Abel, Abraham D'lugin, David Lowenstein, Ben May, Louis Schwartz, and Sam Berger. After the war, a new generation assumed leadership, including Bill Schwartz, Nathan Stein, Arnold Neuwirth, Milton Fleishman, Ken Alpert, Herbert Moskowitz, Bill Kingoff, Fred Retchin, and Seymour Alper. For many years Harry Stein kept the books as treasurer. His records are a masterpiece of organization, as anyone examining the synagogue archives can judge. By the mid 1970's and early 1980's, another new generation of members started doing considerable work for the shul, including Irving Folger, Rick Foleck, Stan Lipman, Mark Alper, Isaac Lasar, Steve Laufer, Howard Neuwirth, Walter Winter, Bob Weinstein and Frank Block. Many of these people had moved to town in the late sixties and seventies with the new industries. Irving Fogler became the first person elected president of the shul who had not resided in the town for many years.

In the years after Rabbi Friedman's departure, rabbis were not easy to come by for the congregation, and even after new ones were engaged, their tenures were not very long. Nevertheless, religious activities did not slow down. Responsibility for them was assumed by various individuals in the congregation. Through many of these challenging years, Arnold Neuwirth served in a capacity similar to a lay rabbi, and he gave much of his time to training youngsters for their Bar Mitzvah. The Saturday morning service remained intact over the years, and Buddy and Arnold Neuwirth davened, while Milton Fleishman and Bill Schwartz were the gaboyim running the services.

At various times in the post World War II period, relations with members of the Wilmington Reform Jewish congregation grew closer. The Covenant Club helped to draw the two groups together. It became a hub for social activities - for dances,

parties, Bar Mitzvahs, weddings, picnics, and other events. The clubhouse is presently the American Legion Hall on the edge of the city golf course off Masonboro Loop Road. Many welcomed the friendships made possible through the Covenant Club, since the two congregations had remained rather apart over many years. Much of the division was due to national differences. While many of the shul's members came from Eastern European backgrounds, the Temple's membership came largely from Western Europe, especially Germany. But the socializing of the Covenant Club helped to bring the two groups much closer for a time. There were other factors that contributed to the sense of togetherness, including work on the UJA drives and participation in B'nai B'rith activities.

During the 1960's, Wilmington looked like it might suffer economic hardship because the railroad, the principal industry in town, was moving its headquarters out of the city. But, to the surprise of many, the city continued to prosper and expand. So did B'nai Israel synagogue. New people began to move into town, people associated with GE and other big new industries in Wilmington. The growth of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington brought new members, too, such as the Levys, the Toplins, and the Mintzes. Meanwhile, many families remained close to the synagogue even though they lived outside the metropolitan area - families such as the Apples, the Ginsbergs, the Kramers, the Foxes, the

Testimonial Dinner

GIVEN BY

Bnai Israel Synagogue

HONORING



SAM BERGER

*In appreciation of his thirteen years of devoted service
as President of the Congregation.*

Sunday Evening, February 23, 1958

WILMINGTON, N. C.



Children of the B'nai Israel Religious School





Present Rabbi Robert Waxman and Family

Manns, the Schlds, the Segermans, the Popkins, the Leinwands, the Leders, the Steinbergs, and the Moskows. Also, a new generation of young people returned to Wilmington after going out-of-town for work and study.

After an extensive search for a new rabbi, Robert Waxman was engaged as the congregation's spiritual leader in 1981. Rabbi Waxman brought a contagious enthusiasm to B'nai Israel, and the level of attendance and participation at shul events picked up considerably. The Sunday School and Hebrew School programs grew impressively; a summer daycamp was established; the curriculum was modernized; Rabbi Waxman organized post-Bar Mitzvah education. He brought a more egalitarian approach to the children's training, encouraging the young ladies to play an active role. He also stressed the importance of Jewish music and often charmed adults and children alike with his guitar. The congregation was proud to learn that Rabbi Waxman was chosen the first rabbi ever to serve as president of the Wilmington Ministerial Association. Rabbi Waxman brought some other assets to Wilmington, too - his charming wife, Dr. Barbara Waxman, who became Professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington - and two young tarheels born in Wilmington: Dina and Daniel.

In recent years numerous people have given unsparingly to the synagogue and helped to make it the special place that it has become in our lives. To all of those wonderful members of B'nai Israel, we wish to say "Thank-You" for helping to bring us to this day of proud celebration.

1984 SYNAGOGUE OFFICERS

President	Walter Winter
Vice President	Rick Foleck
Treasurer	Howard Neuwirth
Secretary	Steve Laufer

1984 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann Finkelstein	Isaac Lasar
Bill Kingoff	Paul Liebeskind
Donna Laufer	Stan Lipman
Nathan Stein	

1984 SISTERHOOD OFFICERS

President	Donna Laufer
First Vice President	Jackie Neuwirth
Second Vice President	Marilyn Winter
Third Vice President	Robin Goldstein
Recording Secretary	Rose Siegel
Corresponding Secretary	Judy Hamelburg
Treasurer	Blanche Blaustein

DOCUMENTS FROM THE HISTORY OF B'NAI ISRAEL

The following documents give us a glimpse of the past. Included in this collection are:

1. Minutes from the 1953 meeting in which the building committee gave its final report before signing the contract to build a new synagogue.
2. The dedication service in 1955 for the new synagogue.
3. The program for the installation of officers and the Board of Directors in 1957.
4. Minutes from a meeting of the parents of the children in Sunday School and Hebrew School, 1975.
5. Certificate of Amendment to the charter of The Benai Yisrael Society.

Wilmington, North Carolina
October 21, 1953

B'Nai Israel Congregation
Wilmington, N. C.

A General meeting of B'Nai Israel Congregation was held at the Synagogue on Wednesday October 21, 1953 at 8:00 P. M. The meeting was presided over by President Sam Berger, meeting being called for the express purpose of giving the building committee a chance to make a final report before signing of the contract to build the New Synagogue.

The President opened the meeting with a financial report of the Building funds, which was as follows:

Cash on hand	\$48,000.00	(Forty Eight Thousand Dollars)
Real Estate	20,000.00	(Twenty Thousand Dollars)
Pledges	19,395.00	(Nineteen Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Five Dollars)

At this time the following motions were made:

Motion by Mr. Abe Dlugin and seconded by Mr. H. Jaffee to follow Architects recommendations to use masonry block painted inside. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Milton Finkelstein seconded by Mr. Jaffee to handle all financial matters with a bank until building is completed and that time secure cheapest and best possible loan. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Justin Raphael seconded by Mr. Noah Plisco

1. That the Board of Governors using the same method with which dues are prorated, put a building fund assessment on every member of the Synagogue depending on the total monies necessary to meet the building cost of the New Synagogue.

2. That donations already paid be deducted from said assessment.

3. That the minimum assessment be \$1,000.00 (One Thousand Dollars), payable in terms according to the means of the member.

4. The Board of Directors make provision to hear any individual complaints against the assessment and consider the case on its own merits before coming to a final decision.

5. That the decision of the Board of Directors be final and binding and that membership in the Synagogue be limited to those who fulfill their obligations as set down by the Board. Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. Noah Plisco seconded by Mr. Seymour Alper to sign contract within 30 days from meeting, for New Synagogue. Motion Carried.

A suggestion was made by Mr. Seymour Alper to have appropriate ground breaking ceremonies.

The meeting was then adjourned subject to the call of the President.

Respectfully submitted

By _____
Sec'y.

Approved

By _____
Pres.

DEDICATION SERVICE OF THE NEW B'NAI ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

TWENTY-SIXTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

MASTER-OF-CEREMONIES: MR. SAM BERGER, PRESIDENT, CONGREGATION

FEBRUARY 20, 1955

3:00 P.M.

28 SHEVAT, 5715

-
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. OPENING HEBREW PRAYER | - RABBI S. A. FRIEDMAN |
| 2. INVOCATION | - RABBI J. SOBER, TEMPLE OF ISRAEL
WILMINGTON |
| 3. THE 84TH PSALM - RESPONSIVE
READING | - RABBI DR. S. UNGER, ASHEVILLE
AND CONGREGATION |
| 4. PROCESSION (HAKOFOTH) OF THE
SCROLLS | - MR. H. JAFFE, OPENING OF ARK
MR. I. LEVINE)
MR. A. DLUGIN) CARRYING SCROLLS
MR. J. ABEL)
MR. B. MAY) |
| 5. PSALM 24 IN HEBREW | - RABBI J. G. TOLOCHKO, KINSTON |
| 6. THE "SHEMA" | - MR. J. MANN, CHANTER
- RABBI S. A. FRIEDMAN & CONGREGATION |
| 7. PLACING OF THE SCROLLS IN THE ARK
AND CHANTING OF THE "UVNUCHO YOMAR", | BY THE CONGREGATION |
| 8. THE LIGHTING OF THE "NER TAMID"
AND THE "SHEHECHEYONU" PRAYER | --- BY THE CONGREGATION |
| 9. GREETINGS BY THE MASTER-OF-CEREMONIES - MR. SAM BERGER
AND INTRODUCTION OF RABBI S. A. FRIEDMAN,
WHO PRESENTS THE GUEST SPEAKER | - RABBI A. J. TOFIELD |
| 10. THE DEDICATION ADDRESS | - RABBI A. J. TOFIELD, CHARLOTTE |
| 11. PSALM 30 IN HEBREW | - RABBI M. IDELL, RALEIGH |
| 12. PSALM 150 | - CONGREGATION |
| 13. "AMERICA" | - CONGREGATION, LED BY MR. B. KINGOFF |
| 14. CONCLUDING WORD AND BENEDICTION | - RABBI S. A. FRIEDMAN |
| 15. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL | - MASTER-OF-CEREMONIES, MR. S. BERGER |

COLLATION BY SISTERHOOD IN THE WILLIAM BLOCK AUDITORIUM

"WITH DIVINE BLESSINGS."

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
B'NAI ISRAEL CONGREGATION
Wilmington, N. C.

DINNER PROGRAM

Sunday, February 10, 1957

6:30 p.m. Tenth of Adar I, 5717

1. INVOCATION Rabbi S. A. Friedman
2. "HAMOTZI" - Breaking Bread- Mr. Milton Fleishman, Vice President
DINNER -- B'nai ISRAEL SISTERHOOD AUSPICES
3. "BIRCHAT HAMAZON" - Grace after Meal
 - a) Hebrew Reading Mr. Nathan Stein, Treasurer
 - b) English Reading Mr. Fred Retchin, Secretary
4. Word of Greeting and Introduction Mrs. Abraham S. Drapkin,
President, Sisterhood
5. VOCAL SELECTIONS Cantor Harry Erstling, Fayetteville, N. C.
Piano Accompaniment, Mrs. Harry Erstling
6. INSTALLATIONS OF OFFICERS Rabbi S. A. Friedman
7. ACCEPTANCE and WORD of GREETING Mr. Sam Berger, President
8. VOCAL SELECTIONS Cantor Harry Erstling,
Accompanied by Mrs. Erstling
9. GUEST SPEAKER Chaplain Bernard Cohen, Jewish Chaplain,
Camp LeJeune, N. C.
10. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Master of Ceremonies, Rabbi S. A. Friedman
11. BENEDICTION Chaplain Bernard Cohen

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF B'NAI ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Sam Berger	President
Milton Fleishman	Vice President
Nathan Stein	Treasurer
Fred Retchin	Secretary
Robert T. Berman	Board Member
Abe Dlugin	Board Member
Abraham S. Drapkin	Board Member
Arnold Neuwirth	Board Member
William Schwartz	Board Member

A Meeting of the parents of children in Sunday School and Hebrew School was held at 7:30 P.M. June 4, 1975. Those present were:

Mr & Mrs. Arthur Kaplan
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Lipman
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Goldstein
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schwartz
Mr. & Mrs. William Kingoff
Mr. Walter Winter

A list is attached showing those children who are expected to attend the Religious School beginning in the fall of 1975.

Mr. Arthur Kaplan and Mrs. Isaac Lazar will teach on Sunday's. An additional teacher will be provided to assist the Rabbi.

The Education Committee has been asked to review the June 4, 1974 guidelines with the Rabbi and also bring to his attention the following thoughts:

- * Classes are to begin promptly and the Rabbi should be present several minutes early so that when the children arrive the Synagogue will be open and ready to receive them. Likewise, the Rabbi should stay until the last child is picked up. Parents should make every effort to have the children to classes on time.
- * The Rabbi shall make plays and Holiday Celebrations a part of The Sunday School Schedule. The teachers should be advised at the beginning of the School Year so that they may arrange their teaching schedules accordingly. The planning and implementation of these special events shall be done by the Rabbi.
- * The point system of conduct has become a subject of laughter by the children and no longer serves any function. It was decided last year that this be dropped and it is again a matter of concern.
- * Children must be taught to read the entire prayers rather than just the opening and closing parts.
- * Children should have their mistakes corrected rather than make them guess the correct answer. This will speed up teaching and eliminate frustration.
- * Sunday School will begin at 9:45 and close at 12:00. Assembly shall be at the end rather than at the start and last fifteen minutes. Hatikva shall be sung and remarks should be confined to the current Holiday.
- * Concern has been voiced over the great emphasis placed on atrocities and the tragic History of the Jewish People. It is felt the Beauty of Judaism should be emphasized to these young children. It was also felt undue attention has been given to the subjects of drugs, Far Eastern Religions and J. Freaks.
- * The children shall not be allowed to run in the yard or in the Synagogue.
- * It is the strong desire of the parents that memorization of either the Torah or any portion is not in the best interest of the children since they have so little time in Hebrew School and fluency in reading is the desired goal of the parents.
- * The Education Committee is to schedule a Meeting with the Rabbi to present the report and schedule and make itself available to the Rabbi to explain any details which are unclear.
- * A School calendar is to be prepared showing those dates of the Public School Holidays as well as Hebrew Holy Days.



CERTIFIED COPY OF

CERTIFICATE OF AMENDMENT TO THE

CHARTER OF

THE BENAI YISRAEL SOCIETY

In Retrospect . . .

In the year of nineteen hundred and three
There was formed what was to be
The pride of our Jewish community.

For eighty-one years we have had celebrations-
Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, weddings and graduations.
There were also tough times, but all will agree
We stuck together and emerged harmoniously.

So, B'nai Israel, proudly we hail thee-
May you grow ever stronger and continue to be
A place where our children will always be free.

Mazel Tov and L'Chaim-

Rebecca Rogol Winter

